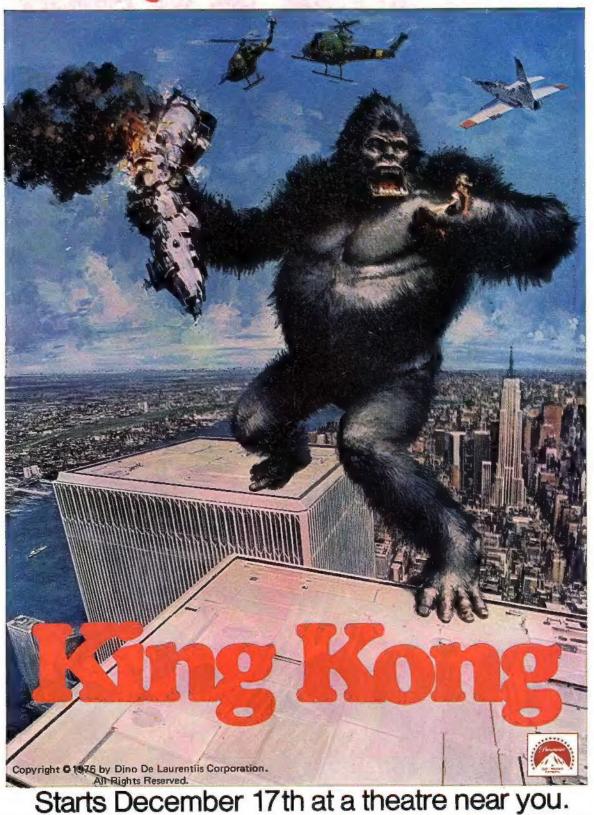


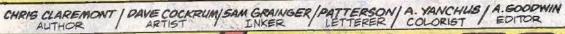
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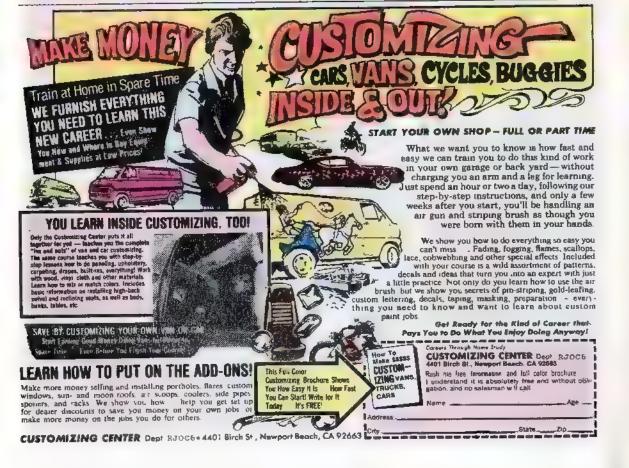
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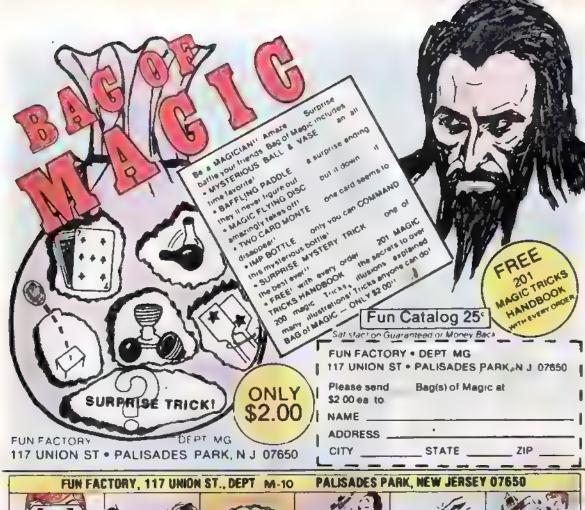








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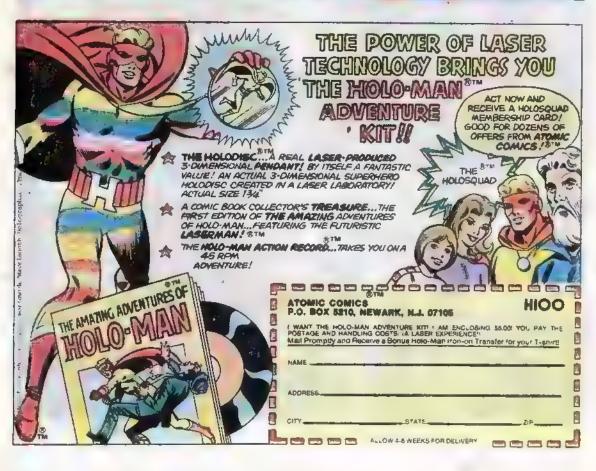














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Dear Chris and Dave,

I love you both. I love your pencils and your typewriter. I love your armadillo. And most of all, I love the all new X Men. You've done it. I never thought I'd hear me say this, much less put it in writing but I think! like them better than the originals. (Okay, so maybe it halps that everyone has finally found a home.)

Sam Mandel has right to his opinion, but anyone who could dislike this comic must be out of the twilight zone.

Jo Duffy 81 Kensington Road Garden City, NY 11530

Things got a little hairy when yours truly got to the part about you loving the X-MEN armedillo, Jo; I mean, I was half-way to the elevators an' burnin' lineleum—which is pretty swift for a body whose basic mode of transportation is a waddle—before Shooter tackled me. I fought like an antester—also pretty impressive when you're only a foot long and don't come equipped with teeth—and I was almost out the door when Jumbo John Verpoorten got me. (Good thing I'm armor plated, otherwise I'd have been a goner for sura!) Next thing I knew, I was in a cold shower and. ...huh, Shooter? Oh, right, the lettercol.

To be brief—but heartfelt—Chris thanks you. Dave thanks you. And I...I...t would like a date! Sey, tonight, midnight, Bronx Zoo—ouch!! Hey, you guys, quit hitting, I didn't really mean it. OUCH!

Dear X People

I've been trying to write this letter since X-MEN #97, but just couldn't express my thoughts until now. As a Mervel to whose greatest love has always been the X-Men (ever since issue #6, buck in 1964), I must say that you've completely won me over to the new X-Men.

Issue #101 was a prime example of why For me, every thing about it clicked—the beautiful cover, the reference to Professor X's one-issue love interest in Jean (an isolated thought in X-MEN #3), the continually exciting graphics of Deve Cockrum (he really appears to enjoy his work on this book), and perhaps most importantly, the many-taceted characterization Chris Claremont gives our heroes. The insights into each member of the cast are neatly batanced, thus we get to know them all a little better each time they appear. I can feel the emotions of these people Scott's response to the news of Jean srecovery is just one of many such finely drawn portrayals.

There is a smooth, strong flow from one major story to the next, thanks to an intricate interweaving of subplots—Marvel's (and Claremont's) strong suit. At the same time, we are presented with enough of the mysterious and the unexplained to keep us constantly intrigued about future developments.

I could go on and on with this, but as a partial balance to this praise, let me say that I do disagree on the logic of sending the new members away to treland when their love for Jean would be as big a help as the care given by Scott and the Professor. Yet, too, the storyline would not have advanced to Ireland this quickly without the enforced vacation, and it is the results which count. No matter, it was a piddling complaint in contrast to the excellence of what you're doing. I get a great joy from reading X MEN, thank you for your afforts.

Kent Roberts 224 75th Street Brooklyn, NY 11209

Pardon me a moment while I dry off, Kent—hoo-boy, two cold showers in one day, things are getting out of hand!

But as to why the Prof sent his pupils on a vacation, you've got to remember that the initial stage of Jean's recovery would be in hospital, where the X-Men's constant presence would tend to disrupt the operating routine and perhaps even compromise their secret identities—such as they are. And, again, Jean's besic need was for peace and quiet and the X-Mens' normally rembunctious natures would tend to toss that right out the window. And, finally, with Xavier being plegued more and more by his outer-space "dreams", he was as much in need of relexation as Jean. He couldn't take care of both Jean and the X-Men, so he turned them loose on their own.

Dear Chris,

I consider myself lucky to have bought X-MEN #101, it was fantastic in every sanse of the word. Dave Cockrum's art was at its best. Because 1 live in Ireland, I thank you for setting your story in my country. The story was great, but where does the Phoenix come into it?

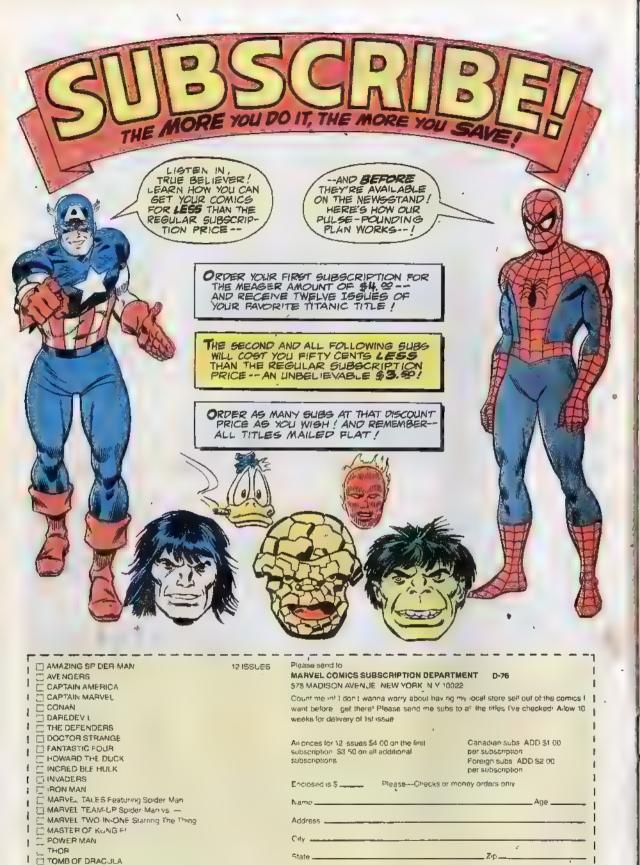
I did spot one big mistake. We don't have steam locomotives any more in Ireland I get over five mags a month, and X-MEN is my favorite.

Kevin Fitzgerald 56 Butterfield Closs Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, Iraland

We're glad we're your favorite mag, Kevin; we sure intend to keep it that way—and don't you worry about Phoenix. She busts loose next issue with a vengeance, taking on one of the most powerful cosmic critters in Marvel's corral Galactus' former herald—Fireford! And she has to fight him alone, with no X-Men to help her

By the way, Chris was so shocked by your statement that ireland has no more steam locomotives that he decided to fly over there to check things out for himself. And, sure enough, Kevin, you're absolutely right, the locos are either diesel or electric! A no-prize will be on its way to you with the next mail Chris also said he had a great time in Dublin and can't wait to visit Eire again.

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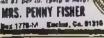
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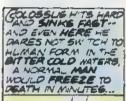
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Okay gang this one's too exciting to keep for another minute! Every 1 m speak at some college in convention someone's sure to ask me. Hey when are you donn't write wome to the comic books? or. How about you and Kirby teamin on agent We don't really have time to write a regular steady mag Johy Jack and anymore but been tohin to learn up for one big super-sensational project MICV we ve finally got it. Yep! The contracts are being written right now. We're planning to write and draw the world's longest and greatest comic book story a hard cover ledition ito be published by 5 mon & Schuster an original novel length epic adventure of - THE SILVER SURFER! It it be the toughest project we ve ever attempted, cause everyone lbe waiting for it. and if it isn't at great as we hope it II be people is start saying Assw: that guy Lee is over the hill or Lee and Kirby big dear! So you can bet we'll do everything we can to make it the absolutery all time most studendous illustrated sage ever produced! If it be on sale towards the end of 77 so start saving your shekets now if one single copy remains unsold we'll know that one of you gooted! And, while you're waiting, you meda't despair there are still a few thousand copies of BRING ON THE BAD GUYS waiting for you to give em a house Just do to your negrett book store look intelligent and yell. Make Mine Marvel 1 And 1 you play your cards right, you might also be able to find a cumbo pack of OH C NS and SON OF ORIGINS as well in fact if you wanne buy with in a real fun place and you be near New Jersey's hancon to L v noston Mal drop in to the new Super-hern Shop where you can get at it Marvel's toy game and noveity goodies But now before you start thinking we re tryin to sell you something, let me give you something to worry about King Kirby Irves in California and Lhang little pointy hat in New York. That means we're gorina have to collaborate on creating the world's greatest single comic book while we're 3,000 miles apart! And you think you've got troubles? Anyway 111 maus a progress report here in ye olde Scepbox from time to time, so you can see how we re doing. Well now that I ve told you all about the opcoming SILVER SURFER sensation maybe I oughtts tell Kirby. He hates to be the last to know! And now of next month Believer keep your surfboard shiny and always remember Gardez te foil



ITEM The shows winds at writer may be blowing when you read this but as your loya armadi o hunts and pecks his way those process with leaters its still through Indian summer And Just's he time of one of the bigges ever its in an of comins namely the annual World Conic Corvertion at succe italy For four frantis days thousands of fans from all over the globs gather to attend panels symposiums and exhibits honoring the top creators it comic hook comic strip field. Among those honored if the past has field our own smilling leader STAN. The Man LEE Tris JACK King KIRBY has been chosen as one of the guests of honor, and is attending convention with his wonder's wife ROSALIND. We couldn't be happing. The guy who through the count ess cornes he's created has emabled the rest of us to travel to such far fluing places as the Negative Zone Aspard and Ego's bioverse is finally getting here of from the drawing board to do some traveling himself, it's about time dack dust don't forget to come back. you're the only one tourside of THE ETERNALS who cari keep those Celest als off our backs!

ITEM! Department of Deja Vu January is the month when MARVEL PREV EW feeturing MAN GOD hits your newsstand You say you have the feeling you we read that bit of news before? At hight We confess The tast time when we announced the contents of the unicoming raise of our \$1.00 size black and white sampler book it was supposed to be MAN COD, the off postponed Roy Thomas and Tony. DeZunigs awasome adaptation of Phillip Wyle's ULAD ATCR No scioner had we committed ourselves in print than a large section of the recently completed pages disappeared in transit into the high adding wa of the United States may When tine , they emerged safety if somewhat haved around the edges we'd a ready been from et to tolo stitute the LEG ON OF MONSTERS NOW it's time to try agein MANICIC Dinas to hold a record as one of our most priminged muspostponed projects ever Have we I na v beaten the curse that seems to hauns it Only your local newsstand knows for sure

ITEM! While we're mentioning the bombastic creations of our bustling black and white department let's get in an early plug for the rwest title in that line THE RAMPAGING HULK. The second sensational issue will be on sale next month and has our grim goliath pitted against the original X-Men is episode by DOUG epic sength anuther MOENCH WALT SIMONSON and ALFPEDO pros a biazing ALCALA At that BLOODSTONE back up feature Watch for it ITEM! On the personal front lier's welcome Shimmering SHARON NG all around aide to our Vice President of Operations 30Ly SQL Y BRODSKY And we car and say welcome back to North Said NELSON YOMTOV peeries production prince to our reprint line and sure handed third baseman on the Bullgen softbal team. Neille just returned

tal and fit from two weeks vacation Hawar arr object of envy for every pale and flu vidder armad to on the staff. Fortunately nice guy that he is Net brought back pineauti es and supplied them into the cages to ever our overworked builpenners could have a raste of is and ite ouch. Meanwhile even fleftire receiving his pineapple ace inher Fearless FRANK GIACO A was beaming happily. And its no worder, since he's filled pride for his youngest daughter MARIJARET who was just recently married Our tiest and warniest to both of your Frank! ITEM By the time you're reading this you probably we already have heard about THE HIMAN FLY No not the villein who debuted in last year & SP DER MANANNUAL The fella we're talking about is an actual deredevit who specializes in the kind of hair alsing stunts usually reserved for the super types cavorting through the pages of our comics and who will probably be in for some network. TV coverage about the time this reaches you But even I by chance you re one of those rare and resolute souls who refuses to watch the tube you're still going to be hearing about THE HUMAN because merry Marvet's about to saunch a very special comic book series based on this real life super hero. The stories are going to be fictional but the background well draw upor is the Fiy's own and it is exciting and normal big as any fictional adventurer's life ever was As the book takes shape well be keeping you informed of all the details. This is going to be an unusua one so stay afert



ITEM! And as long as see re filling you in on future developments, let's look way ahead to next summer and finish with a rundown of what's in store in the way of 50¢ King-size Annuals to no particular order they are THE INCREDIBLE HULK CAPT AMERICA HOWARD THE DUCK AMAZING SPIDER MAN MASTER OF KUNG FU THE DEFENDERS THOR THE ETERNALS FANTASTIC FOUR INVADERS RON MAN MARVE, TWO IN ONE (which co start SPILEY with the book's ever lovin blue eyed AVENGERS and CONAN hosti BARBAR AN Work's aiready started on some of them and we think we've not a few pressent surprises for you. We if he revealing one or two of them next month. See you then



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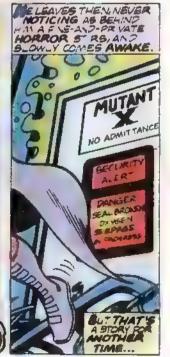




















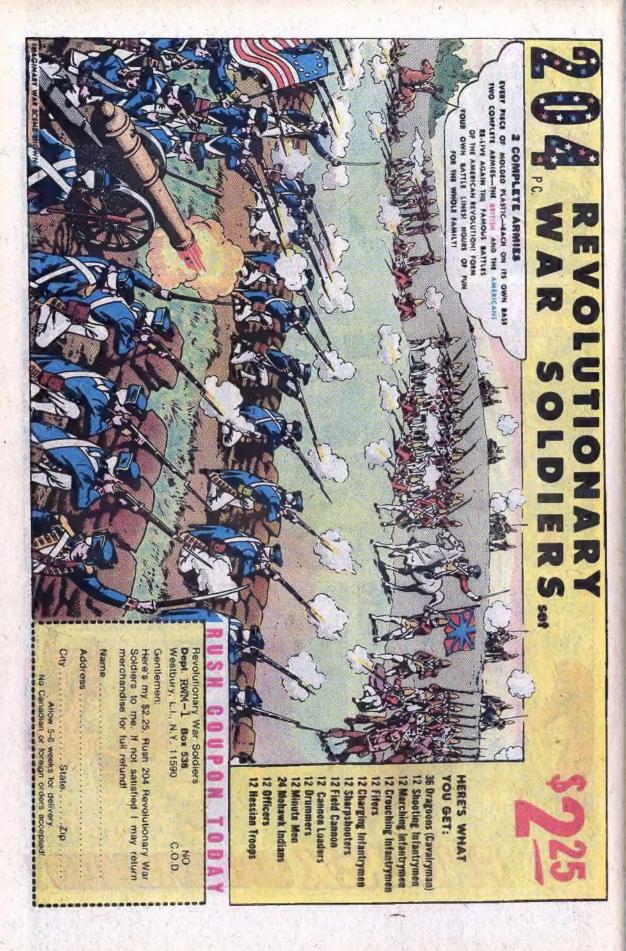


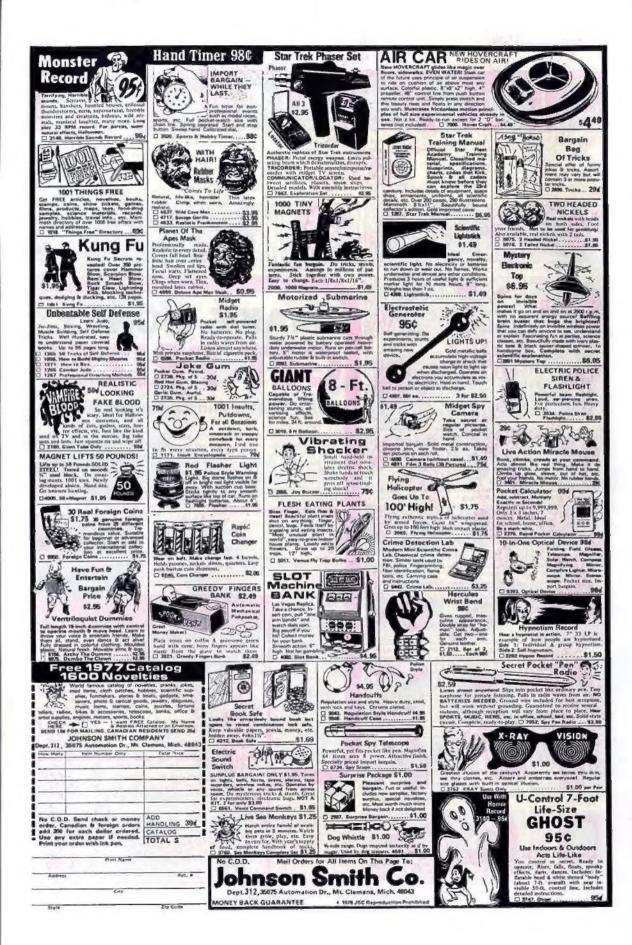






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